

BOARD OF COUNSELING
CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MEETING
June 4, 2009

TIME & PLACE: The Credentials Committee of the Board of Counseling convened at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 4, 2009 at the Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Board Room 2, Richmond, Virginia.

PRESIDING: Mary Lou Argow, Co-Chair

BOARD MEMBERS
PRESENT: Charles McAdams, Ed.D.
Eric McCollum, Ph.D.
Vivian Sanchez-Jones
Linda Seeman, Ph.D.
John Penn Turner
Natale Ward

STAFF PRESENT: Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director
Patricia Larimer, Deputy Executive Director
Howard Casway, Sr. Assistant Attorney General
Diana Pollick, Operations Manager

DISCUSSION
TOPICS: Counseling Related Degree: A discussion took place regarding regulation 18VAC115-20-49(B): "Degree Program Requirements". The Committee determined that there is no need for regulatory change and that the focus on this regulation will remain in effect but that further clarification of educational requirements might be needed. Dr. McAdams will contact state and national counseling associations for their input regarding educational criteria and report back to the Committee at the August 6, 2009 meeting. Howard Casway advised the Committee that the "degree program" focus is narrowing the educational requirements for those applying for licensure by examination (and some endorsement applicants) while implementation of the "Evidence of Clinical Practice" form (ECP) broadens the options for those applying for licensure by endorsement, and that there must be equity between the two. Mr. Turner made a motion that the Board refer

18VAC115-20-45: “Prerequisites for Licensure by Endorsement”, particularly the use of “consistent” as opposed to “comparable” educational requirements to the Regulatory Committee. Dr. McAdams seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Shortage of Internship Hours: Discussion took place concerning the issue of applicants submitting “Verification of Internship” forms documenting less than the required 600 hours of internship experience as set forth in 18VAC115-20-51(A)(13), accompanied by a letter of appeal to be allowed to accrue additional residency experience hours to offset the internship hour shortage. These appeals have been denied leaving applicants in a position to seek additional internship hours to meet the requirement, however, colleges/universities do not allow students to enroll for such purposes. After much deliberation the Committee determined that since this regulation has been in effect since April 12, 2000 there is no need for the Board to make any regulatory change, but rather the need is for colleges and universities providing counselor education for licensure to offer academic programs that fully meet the requirements. By Consensus the Committee agreed that their recommendation to the Board will be to have a Guidance Document developed stating that *effective up to and including the year 2010 applicants who completed their program(s) prior to 9/3/08 may appeal to have additional supervised experience hours offset any internship hour shortage.* The guidance document will also state that *effective 9/3/08 only a 600 hour internship will be considered by the Board.* The Board of Social Work recently adopted a Guidance Document relative to this issue and similar language will be included In the Counseling guidance document.

Use of Evidence of Clinical Practice (ECP) Form: Clarification was requested regarding the use of evidence of licensed clinical active practice under one license (i.e. LPC) to apply for another license (i.e. MFT). The Committee confirmed that the applicant must verify experience as a licensee holding the same type of license in another jurisdiction that they are applying for in Virginia. Verified experience under any other license type will not be considered.

Maximum/Minimum Number of Internship Direct Client Contact Hours that can be Applied Towards the Residency: Regulation 18VAC115-20-51(A)13 states that a supervised internship of 600 hours to include 240 hours of face-to-face contact is required, but it is not stated whether this is a maximum number.

A discussion took place resulting in the Committee coming to consensus that the 240 is a minimum number and any amount of internship direct client contact hours can count towards the 2000 direct client contact hours required for the Residency.

Waiver of MFT Exam for Endorsement Applicants:

The July 9, 1997 regulations, specifically 18VAC115-50-80, allowed for an exam waiver for VA LPC applicants applying for Marriage & Family Therapy licensure. This waiver was eliminated in the January 19, 2000 regulations. Therefore, based on 18VAC115-50-70, all applicants for initial MFT licensure in Virginia shall pass a nationally recognized Marriage & Family Therapy examination, including applicants holding a current LPC license.

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS:

Upon a motion made by Mr. Turner and duly seconded by Dr. McAdams the Committee voted to convene in closed session pursuant to §2.2-3711(4) of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of reviewing applications for licensure. Additionally, he moved that Evelyn Brown, Patricia Larimer, Howard Casway and Diana Pollick attend the closed session because their presence in the closed session was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations.

RECONVENE:

Having certified that matters discussed in the preceding closed session met the requirements of §2.2-3711(4) of the Code, the Committee reconvened in open session.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Charles McAdams, Ed.D., Co-Chair

Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director